

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 8, 2008. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 17, 21, 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,727,999 (Takahashi '999) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,985,245 (Takahashi '245). Claims 5, 16, 18, 19, 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takahashi '999 in view of Takahashi '245 and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,874,034 (Hertling). Claims 20 and 24 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takahashi '999 in view of Takahashi '245. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns printing print jobs that may require printing either in a monochromatic mode or a color mode. In one aspect of the invention, the print job is composed of a job ticket and a print document and one of two modes are designated in response to a user instruction. In a first mode, distribution printing of the print document is executed by analyzing the print document. In the second mode, distribution printing is executed based on print instruction information described by the job ticket, and the print control means controls distribution printing of the print document either in the first mode or in the second mode in accordance with the designation.

Specifically, an apparatus in accordance with the present invention executes the monochromatic/color distribution printing of a print document by analyzing the print document so as to obtain accurate distribution printing (in the first mode), or executes the distribution printing by following print instruction information described by the job ticket so as to obtain faster distribution printing, although color information may not be accurately

reflected in the printing (in the second mode). Furthermore, in another aspect of the present invention, the user is allowed to select one of the modes depending on the user's preferences or execution environments.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print managing apparatus which is connected to a plurality of printing apparatuses including a monochromatic printing apparatus and a color printing apparatus via a communication medium. The print managing apparatus includes a reception means for receiving a print job which includes a job ticket and a print document via the communication medium, the job ticket describing print instruction information for the print document; designation means for designating one of a plurality of distribution printing modes including a first mode and a second mode in response to a user instruction; reading means for reading the job ticket included in the print job received by the reception means; and print control means for controlling distribution printing in accordance with a designation executed by the designation means, wherein the print control means executes the distribution printing of the print document through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus by analyzing the print document in the first mode, and executes the distribution printing of the print document through the monochromatic printing apparatus and the color printing apparatus based on the print instruction information described by the job ticket read by the reading means in the second mode.

Applicant submits that Takahashi '999 and Takahashi '245, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claim 1. In particular, Takahashi '999 and Takahashi '245, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of a reception means for receiving a print job which includes a job ticket and a print document via the communication medium, the job ticket describing print instruction information for the print document and a designation means for designating one of a plurality of distribution printing modes

including a first mode and a second mode in response to a user instruction and a print control means that controls distribution printing in accordance with a designation executed by the designation means as featured in Claim 1.

In contrast to the present invention, Takahashi '999 discloses distributed monochromatic or color printing. In Takahashi '999, it is determined for each page whether the page is to be distributed to a monochromatic printer or a color printer by determining whether or not the page includes a color image. Takahashi '999 further discloses a job ticket, but this job ticket is designated as a ticket for managing a job after issuance of the job, such as for confirmation of progress of the job, but it is not designated as setting information for print data. (See Fig. 21 of Takahashi '999.)

Furthermore, Takahashi '245 discloses distributed monochromatic or color printing as well. However, Takahashi '245 further discloses designating for each page whether the page is to be distributed to a monochromatic printer or a color printer on a job ticket screen. (See Figs. 22, 27 and 35 and column 29, lines 1 to 12).

Therefore, even if Takahashi '999 and Takahashi '245 were combined, which Applicant does not concede is permissible, such a combination would simply disclose executing distributed monochromatic or color printing, wherein it is designated for each page whether the page is to be distributed to a monochromatic printer or a color printer. The designation would be made by (a) analyzing the page to discriminate whether or not the page includes a color image or (b) designating the distribution of each page on a print setting screen. Such a combination, however, would not disclose or suggest that the print job is composed of a job ticket and a print document, nor that a designation means designates, in response to a user instruction, either one of a first mode in which the distribution printing of the print document is executed by analyzing the print document and a second mode in which the distribution printing is executed based on print instruction information described by

the job ticket, nor that the print control means controls the distribution printing of the print document either in the first mode or in the second mode in accordance with a designation executed by the designation means as featured in Claim 1.

In light of this deficiency in Takahashi '999 and Takahashi '245, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 6, 7, 21, 25 and 26 are directed to a method of managing an apparatus, a system, a method of managing a system, a computer readable medium for an apparatus and a computer readable medium for a system, respectfully, substantially in accordance with Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 6, 7 21, 25 and 26 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

The Director is authorized to charge the requisite \$130 fee for a one-month extension to Deposit Account No. 50-3939. The Director is further authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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